

IN THE CLAIMS:

Original claim 1 was amended during Chapter II proceedings by substituting new claim 1 in a letter dated November 24, 2000. Please cancel original claims 1-6 and cancel amended claim 1 and rewrite them as new claims 7-12 as follows:

Sub 13
7. A method for the treatment of focal cerebral ischemic infarction by administering at least one compound that reduces α_2 -antiplasmin *in vivo* in the form of a therapeutical composition, whereby the size of the focal cerebral ischemic infarct is reduced.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the at least one compound reduces the circulating α_2 -antiplasmin concentration.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the at least one compound reduces the circulating α_2 -antiplasmin activity.

10. The method according to claim 7, wherein the at least one compound is selected from the group consisting of α_2 -antiplasmin neutralizing antibodies and derivatives thereof.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the derivatives are selected from the group consisting of Fab fragments and ScFv fragments.

12. The method according to claim 7, wherein the at least one compound is an α_2 -antiplasmin neutralizing compound selected from the group consisting of plasmin, mini-plasmin (lacking the first four kringle) or micro-plasmin (lacking all five kringle).